

1 Isobell Dillman Batty

Tape 181

Interviewed 23 September 1986 by William Jolley

Transcribed 11 April 2001 by Kathleen Irving

Isobelle Dillman Batty (Isobell): Grandmother passed away October 28, 1904. My father was back east to mortuary school then.

William Jolley (WJ): Elmer?

Isobell: Elmer. I don't know how long he had been there.

WJ: It mentions in the DUP book [Builders of Uintah] that Peter Dillman helped Mr. Joseph H. Black decorate coffins, which Joseph Black made.

Isobell: Grandfather and Grandmother were both very public-minded and they did whatever was necessary in the community. My grandmother used to go from home to home to help when there was real sickness. Her health wasn't too good herself, and she contracted typhoid fever and that's how she died. That was in 1904.

WJ: Then ten years later your father passed away, right?

Isobell: He was 34. I don't know.

WJ: Wasn't it in the flu epidemic?

Isobell: Yeah, he was the last one.

WJ: Yes, the year was 1919.

Isobell: Yes, I think so, yes. But he was back east to school then and when he came back he bought the business from Sol Trim, who wasn't a mortician at all, he was just a

WJ: Just an undertaker.

Isobell: Yes, well, he took care... Somebody had to, nobody was. As near as I can remember, I don't think he was qualified. I think that's why Father went back.

WJ: Do you know which school he went to back east, by chance?

Isobell: Eccles College of Embalming. I don't know how I remembered that.

WJ: Is that in St. Louis, or is it beyond that?

Isobell: I think it's in Iowa. I think. Then he met my mother back there and then they homesteaded over the other side of Roosevelt for a little while before he bought Sol Trim out. Then they built that place where the dry cleaning establishment is. On First South.

WJ: On First South and about 50 West or thereabouts, 30 West?

Isobell: Yes, and they built that. Then when Father died, Mother kept that, but it burned. Somebody set it on fire, there was some arson, and it burned down and Mother didn't have the money to rebuild it, so she moved the mortuary up to her home.

WJ: And that was on Second?

Isobell: Yes, it's Second South and between....

WJ: And about 136 West or 130 West?

Isobell: Yes, something like that. But you know, hardly anybody took their bodies to the home, to the mortuary. They much preferred to have it in the home. My father went to the homes and took care of the bodies, rather than taking them [in]. Only the ones who—maybe the family lived in one room, or even at that time, they sometimes kept the body at home.

WJ: Hedy Hodgkinson told me a story about when John Davis died, and she was staying at that home at that time.

Isobell: Yes, working. He brought her over from Germany.

WJ: Right, from Germany. And she told me a story that, I don't think it was your father, but your step-mother had brought him some topical type of embalming fluid that was put all over the person's body, on the skin.

Isobell: Yes, and then they put packets of ice...

WJ: Yes, and ice around it. And she remembered looking through the skylight and watching her do that.

Isobell: That was my mother, yes.

WJ: Bessie Swain, or Bessie Dillman. Harold Davis or Clive Davis, one of the two, while she was asleep, got some of that fluid and put it on her nightgown, put her handprints all over it and she says, "I've been scared of funeral directors ever since."

Isobell: Oh!

WJ: One of the boys had played a trick on her. That was just a memory.

Isobell: It was a kind of embalming fluid?

WJ: Yes, it went on the surface. Now, you don't remember anything about your grandfather, though, doing anything?

Isobell: I don't believe he was. I don't know. I've never heard of that. I've heard a lot about other things that Grandfather did, but never that... Of course, he could have gone and helped decorate caskets, you know. I wouldn't question that a bit.

WJ: But he didn't have an establishment, per se?

Isobell: No, he didn't.

WJ: That's interesting.

Isobell: Grandmother decorated caskets more than anybody else. She had a little millinery shop and she was very artistic. In fact, I was told that she designed the nine fig leaves for the Mormon Church for their temple clothes.

WJ: Oh.

Isobell: Now whether that's true or not, I don't know, but I think Aunt Florence Kelly told me that. But she was very, very religious.

WJ: Maybe seven or eight years ago Mike Brown came and talked to you about Pete Dillman and we have that oral history at the library still and then we have this book. Apparently he wasn't religious at all. He wasn't LDS.

Isobell: No, he wasn't LDS. He believed in God. He did join the Church, though. Somebody told me in Roosevelt that they found the record where he had joined the Church. I went over, but this lady wasn't home and then I went again. It's over there, the record, somewhere, and I need to go find out exactly when it was because he did join the Church. But Grandmother wanted him to go to the temple and he wouldn't. He just kept putting it off. He wasn't really converted. So she and five other ladies went and were sealed to S.R. Bennion, who at that time was the stake president. I don't know what Pres. Bennion thought of it.

WJ: Or how your grandfather felt?

Isobell: Oh, I know how my grandfather felt. He ridiculed the whole religion from then on. To grandfather it was absolute nonsense. But his love for my grandmother was a beautiful thing. I've read many things that he's written, and my sister has the letter that my grandfather wrote to my father when Grandma died and it's a beautiful thing.

An interesting thing: they used to count the number of carriages and they published it in the paper, that followed the....

WJ: The procession?

Isobell: Yes, and evidently that was one of the big funerals in the community. Then I found this little account of Grandmother's death. Ella McKee Batty, some of the McKees died and they had that in their collection and Ella gave it to me.

WJ: They don't know when it was?

Isobell: Yes, it was 1904.

WJ: Well, we could look that up in the *Express* on microfilm that we have at the library.

Isobell: I don't know whether this was the *Express*, it must have been.

WJ: Well, maybe it wasn't. I don't know.

Isobell: Was there a paper before the *Express*?

WJ: The *Pappoose*, *Uintah Pappoose*.

Isobell: Maybe that was it. This is where this came from. I don't know.

WJ: 1904. October, almost November.

Isobell: Now, Mother was a schoolteacher. They needed a schoolteacher and that's why they went over on that side because they needed a schoolteacher over there; they didn't have one. So, Father and Mother went over for the year and Mother taught school and Father farmed, homesteaded. Then they came over.

WJ: Where was that? Out south of town?

Isobell: It's over right by Myton.

WJ: Clear over there then.

Isobell: There was a school over there.

WJ: In Bennett?

Isobell: I don't know.

WJ: Was it Independence?

Isobell: I don't know. There was a school over there around. Maybe it was Myton. I don't know. But after the school year was over, and I'm not sure it was that very year, but they came back and he bought Sol Trim's business and then built that building.

WJ: And that was in 1904?

Isobell: Well, no. I think that was probably in 1906 or '07 because he didn't come home immediately when Grandmother died. He finished school. Then when Father died, Mother went back to school, but something happened, one of the children got sick, and she came back, and she didn't ever finish. And she didn't ever get her certificate, her embalmer's certificate, but could do this other thing.

WJ: She did go to school, though? Did she go back to Eccles school or another one?

Isobell: I think it was Eccles. I'm not sure, but I think it was Eccles, because, see, Father met her there and she had family there that she could live with while she went to school, so I assume that's where she went. But she hadn't been there terribly long when one of the children became very ill and Belle, my father's sister, came and lived with us while Mother went back to school, to take care of us. She was an RN. But Mother got frightened.

WJ: When something happened to...

Isobell: To, I don't remember which one of the children, pretty ill, so she came home. She didn't ever... Oh, finances and other things happened and she didn't ever finish.

WJ: What happened to Sol Trim? Where did he go?

Isobell: I just think he was old, old.

WJ: Did he die here, I wonder?

Isobell: I don't know.

WJ: I wonder what happened to him? Did he have any children?

Isobell: I don't know. I just know that much.

WJ: You think that was about 1906?

Isobell: Well, about there, I think. Now, I don't know how long they stayed over there and I don't know if they bought that immediately when they came back, but I don't know exactly when they went over there. Mother was married... Wait a minute, it was later than that. Mother was married in 1908.

WJ: Here's a picture of Leo Thorne. This is a copy of the picture, we have the picture in the library. And here's Leo Thorne on his bicycle, and Postcard Studio is right here. Right over here it says, "Dillman, An Embalmer," right next to him. And this was approximately 1911.

Isobell: Well, maybe they didn't build that building for quite a while then.

WJ: And this is on South Vernal Avenue.

Isobell: I know where it is. Grandfather owned that corner at one time.

WJ: Where Day's is now. [Days was a grocery store on the northwest corner of Vernal Avenue and 100 South. Ed.]

Isobell: Yes. So they built around the corner this other way. Grandmother had at one time, she had in here a little millinery store.

WJ: Yeah. It mentions that. She had that millinery store for quite a while.

Isobell: Yes. She loved decorating hats and things. She loved to be fancy. She wrote poetry. When people died, she would write, oh, what would you call it? A memoriam. I've read those. She was very artistic and pretty domineering, pretty strong-willed.

WJ: Well, those pioneer women were. They had to be. So, this is about 1911, so you think maybe about five years earlier? 1906 is when Elmer came in on the picture.

Isobell: Yes and probably this is what he bought from Sol Trim. Maybe he stayed there a while before he built that other. It's logical, isn't it? But I know that after, sometime after, they built that other.

WJ: Is there anyone that would have any books of his? Nowadays, we have to keep books and records on everything and anything we do. But did he keep any books or anything?

Isobell: Yes, well, you see, it burned down. So, all the books burned with it. All the records.

WJ: Now, when did it burn down? About what year?

Isobell: Oh, dear, I'd just be guessing, but that was after Mother was married to Frank Swain.

WJ: So that would have been after... I think he died in 1914 or so, didn't he, with typhoid.

Isobell: Who?

WJ: Your father.

Isobell: No. My father died in 1919.

WJ: 1919?

Isobell: Yes.

WJ: Okay, 1919. So then that one burned down in the '20s, that's on First South.

Isobell: Yes.

WJ: But you don't know when?

Isobell: No. Maybe Opal [Dillman] would know those things. When Opal comes, let me have you talk with her.

WJ: Please. I'd really enjoy that.

Isobell: I think they called it the Vernal Mortuary after they took it. Then your folks bought it from Mother. Mother had a real sad life. Never enough money, never enough anything. But she had a real empathy for people who were in trouble and she could reach out to them. She didn't have time for anybody that didn't need her help. She didn't have time for ladies' clubs and things. She always had somebody in our house that couldn't afford something. When her very dear friend, Grace Davis, got a divorce, she was left absolutely destitute with five little kids and she couldn't even pay the rent or buy any food, so they moved in with us. Grace and all the five. And you know, it just seemed as normal to us as could be. We didn't have enough room for us, but it was all right. We got along just great. We loved the Davis kids and they loved us.

WJ: What memories do you have of the mortuary things? First, I imagine the first part it was away from the home. But then your mother brought it into her home on Second South there.

Isobell: Yes, and she converted a bedroom and a half to that and built out a little bit on the front.

WJ: She had caskets there to display to people?

Isobell: Yes, she had caskets there.

WJ: Were the homemade? Were they handmade?

Isobell: Oh, no.

WJ: Were they shipped in? Did they come in through Uintah Railway or did trucks bring them out?

Isobell: Now, I know that some of the caskets, for the poorest people, some of the caskets were made and decorated on our dining room table.

WJ: Oh, really? Who made them?

Isobell: Siney Lewis and my step-father sometimes, and my mother decorated them. She bought that kind of puffy stuff, casket silk and all, and tacked it along the edges and I think they filled it first with excelsior and then padded it with cotton, and made nice little pillows.

WJ: That's interesting.

Isobell: At that time many people made a memorial pillow for their friends who had died and they made a lovely, lovely pillow that went in the casket.

WJ: I've never heard of that.

Isobell: My grandmother did them all the time.

WJ: A memorial pillow.

Isobell: She made a pillow. I think all the caskets were probably made in my grandmother's time because it would take too long to get them here. I don't think there was much of a place. But my grandmother always made those pillows and on the pillows she wrote these lovely little, well, she pinned on these little things, generally it was read at the service what Grandmother had written.

WJ: That's an interesting custom.

Isobell: Yes, it is.

WJ: What other things have changed?

Isobell: Well, sometimes they'd even hold funerals right in the home. If they had no religious affiliations, they'd hold the funeral right in the home, and very often did.

Sometimes the mud was so bad, people couldn't get very many places. Sometimes they'd get stuck going up Cemetery Hill, particularly when they had that first Ford car. It would get stuck a lot and they had to have teams available to get it up the hill.

WJ: That was the coach they had, the hearse? That's interesting.

Isobell: It was wooden with carved drapery-like things, and it was orchid, the first one. It was a beautiful thing.

WJ: Does anybody have any of these old ones around? Did they just sell them or did somebody keep them?

Isobell: The first one, I think, is out at that museum in Salt Lake, where the man had the furniture store. What was his name? He had Southeast Furniture, and he had that museum. And I think that museum moved up to Lagoon. It's up there in that museum. I'm not sure, it was there at one time, the first one. They had four beautifully-matched black horses that pulled it. My father had a big, heavy beaver coat and my mother had a beaver coat that she wore on top of there, because it was bitter cold up there. They rode up on that old hearse. It didn't get stuck because they had the horses, but when the car came along, it did.

Sometimes they'd have the funeral at our home. Mother took care of the body in that little half. She kept one of the bedrooms, it was my sister's and my bedroom, it crowded us somewhat. She kept that for a preparation room and then, of course, there weren't so many funerals in those days and she would move the body into the living room for people to view it.

WJ: What would you kids do?

Isobell: Well, we'd stay in the dining room.

WJ: Tell me some of the memories you have growing up in the funeral home.

Isobell: Well, you see, we were so tiny, we didn't know much else. When my father died, I was very small and he died when my brother was a year old and my other brother was three and I wasn't quite five, so we just didn't know anything else. Some people would say, "Oh, you must be frightened to death to live there." It didn't bother *you*, did it?

WJ: No, you don't know anything else. It doesn't bother you at all.

Isobell: No, and I know that my mother never allowed us to say anything disparaging about anybody. No matter what the condition of the death or, you know, there were some peculiar people, and my mother never let us... For instance, the Pig Man died. Did you know about the Pig Man? And they had to cut his coat. He didn't change clothes, he just added to. His hair had grown into his clothing and had to be shaved off from him. We were never allowed to say that. I remember somebody, one of my friends, or one of Harold's friends, called him "Old Stiff" and my mother lectured—oh, boy!

WJ: She had a lot of respect for people, and dignity.

Isobell: And love. She knew most of the people and she loved them. They loved her. She was very much loved. I'm sure she had her enemies, but she had more people that loved her, I think. They knew of her concern for them.

My sister locked me up in the hearse. I don't know why they had that trapdoor underneath, but in the middle of the back of the hearse, the old horse-drawn hearse, there was a trapdoor. I don't know why they had it, but we'd crawl up in that trapdoor and my sister locked me in there and then she was afraid to tell. She went to bed and forgot me and she was afraid to tell my mother what she had done. I spent the night there.

WJ: You spent the night in the hearse?

Isobell: Other than being cold, I don't know that it bothered me very much, uncomfortable.

WJ: What did your mother say when... Did you ever tell her? How did you get out? How did you resolve that?

Isobell: Oh, they had the whole community out hunting for me and finally my sister told, but it was morning and I was frozen stiff. It must have been in October sometime, it was kind of cold.

One time all of us got on the fence. The hearse went up past our house from Second Ward Chapel, up past on First South and all of us and our friends were on the fence singing "Did you ever think if the hearse passed by that someday maybe you and I would be riding in that selfsame hack and never dreaming of coming back? Your eyes fall out, your teeth fall in, and worms crawl over your mouth and chin." We were singing that and I don't know if anybody but

my mother knew what we were singing. I hope they didn't. But anyway, I tell you, we had our restrictions for a long, long time after that.

WJ: She probably got after you for singing that song!

Isobell: Oh, we weren't allowed to have any company and that was something because there were always swarms of kids around our house. But we weren't allowed to have any company for two weeks and I don't know what other restrictions she gave us, but it was severe. Mother didn't slap or whip or anything. In fact, she wasn't much of a disciplinarian at all, but....

WJ: She had too much love?

Isobell: Well, she just couldn't stand to see anybody's feelings hurt. Consequently, we had problems later on in our lives.

WJ: I can appreciate that.

Isobell: Particularly my half-brothers. Their father would say....

[Tape turned off for an unknown amount of time.]

Isobell: It was necessary for Mother. She was getting older, she had to sell, she had no money. My mother could never handle money. She always had money problems. If Mother collected \$100 and somebody needed it, she gave it to them. That was typical of Mother. So when he took over, I think she was grateful. She had to earn a little living. I really don't know what happened.

WJ: Didn't her brother, no her brother-in-law, Harold....

Isobell: Her son.

WJ: Excuse me, her son. He started a funeral home in Roosevelt and he would come over and help her for a while.

Isobell: Yes, he did the embalming. There was a state law that they had to be embalmed and when that happened, then Harold did that for her.

WJ: I see. Then he got involved with the Baptist Church, became a minister.

Isobell: Yes and that didn't go in a Mormon community. So he was having a rough time. But then Opal wasn't happy in a Mormon community, either. Of course, they moved into another Mormon community, but...

WJ: Now Opal, is...

Isobell: Very strong Baptist.

WJ: Yes, she's a very strong Baptist. Now, that's not Harold's wife, is it?

Isobell: Yes. Harold's wife. And she really is a wonderful person.

WJ: Okay, I see.

Isobell: I love Opal she's... That's my grandmother, isn't it?

WJ: Yes, I'm just turning this book.

Isobell: Here's Harold, and Father and Mother and Uncle Ray and Aunt Belle; Mildred and Aunt Fern and Uncle Jack.

WJ: I think that's all they have pictures of.

Isobell: That's all. That's all there were. Just four children.

WJ: So, there were these four children of Peter....

Isobell: Peter and Julia Ellen [Dillman].

WJ: So this Harold would be your uncle?

Isobell: No, he's my brother. This is my Father and Mother and brother.

WJ: He's your brother?

Isobell: Yes, he's my oldest brother.

WJ: All right.

Isobell: And he became a Baptist minister. I don't think he was ever totally converted to the Baptist Church, but, see, we went to the Congregational Church when we were growing up and I don't know if I was the first one to join the [LDS] Church or not, but I joined the Church because my friends were getting baptized.

WJ: You didn't really join it because you thought it was

Isobell: I was only eight years old, I didn't know much. I don't know if my sister joined before I did or not. I know we were all baptized into the Mormon Church.

WJ: As children, huh?

Isobell: Yes. We were all baptized into the Mormon Church after Mother joined, but Harold spent some time with Grandfather and he became a little bitter like Grandfather. Then he married Opal, who has a real dislike for the Mormon Church. She still does. She's trying to convert me

all the time. I don't think of changing much. But we have to have a rule not to talk of it. But she really is a wonderful person.

WJ: So he was over in Roosevelt, had started a funeral home, but then he'd got another interest. Or did he buy them out over there?

Isobell: No, there wasn't one over there.

WJ: Your parents took care of the whole Basin, didn't they?

Isobell: Yes. Harold started that over there. There may have been one. No, there wasn't, and he built a nice funeral home. He had a pretty good practice. But Opal kept thinking that he should spend more of his time with the church. Harold loved her very much and anything Opal wanted to do, he wanted to do for her. That was his whole life, anything Opal liked. If she hadn't been a righteous woman, that would have been too bad, but she was.

WJ: She's a good lady. So now, didn't you have another brother here?

Isobell: No, Harold and Gerald were the only brothers I had. I had half-brothers.

WJ: Okay. Harold and Gerald, then you had some half-brothers. There were twins?

Isobell: There was Glen and Loren and Lawrence and Bob.

WJ: Was it Loren who was going to take over the business here at one time? I was talking Dad, and he couldn't quite remember who it was. [William is referring to his father, Aaron Jolley, who ran the Vernal Mortuary for many years.]

Isobell: Yeah, Loren was going to.

WJ: Loren was going to, but he died, right?

Isobell: Yes.

WJ: Then Lawrence said, "Well, maybe I will," but he never did. Right?

Isobell: I didn't know that Lawrence ever thought he might. Glen thought he might.

WJ: Oh, maybe it was Glen then.

Isobell: But he didn't.

WJ: Now, is Glen still alive?

Isobell: No, just Lawrence is alive and Bob.

WJ: So, Harold would come over and do the preparation work for your mother.

Isobell: And she conducted the funerals.

WJ: Then she would conduct the services, pretty much do everything else, except for the embalming part.

Isobell: Yes.

WJ: And when Dad came out, he came out on a service to Roosevelt and I think he probably made acquaintance with Harold at that time. Then he brought another one, later on, out to Vernal from Larkin's. He was coming in from Salt Lake. That's how he got to know your mother. Then he approached her and she said, "Maybe so." But then, my dad says, Loren had just died, or died a couple years earlier. And Glen, I guess, said, "Well, let's see if we can do it on our own for a while." So, Dad had come out and kind of committed himself to come. Then he purchased the funeral home later on. A year or so after.

Isobell: Well, he had a nice place to go and he was young. Mother was getting older. It was time. She didn't know how to make a living. When she was left with five little kids, on a teacher's salary in those days, you couldn't support us. So, she carried on the business.

WJ: Do you have any other memories? Stories or interesting tales, or things people might be interested in?

Isobell: You mean a funny thing?

WJ: Funny would be fine.

Isobell: This, I think, is sort of amusing. Sheb Swain, that's my step-father's brother, Sheldon, drove the hearse one time and they had a funeral over on the west side and the house was papered with funny papers. He sat in the back and in the middle of the service he was reading one of those funny papers and he just started to laugh out. He thoroughly enjoyed the funny papers.

WJ: I'll bet that was kind of upsetting to the family, to have him start laughing.

Isobell: Oh, my poor mother, too.

WJ: She was probably so serious about it and concerned.

Isobell: Oh, yes. Mother had great empathy. I've never known anybody who had more empathy than her.

WJ: Yes, that's what Dad said. Anything else?

Isobell: No, I can't think of anything.

WJ: Tell me about your mother and your father. Why did your father go into funeral directing? Do you know? I know you were young when he passed away, but did your mother ever mention why he chose that rather than all the different things he could have?

Isobell: I think that possibly because there was a need for it out here. My father wanted to go... I think he wanted to be a lawyer, like Uncle Ray. Uncle Ray went to law school, and I don't know why Father didn't. Maybe they needed him. But it was a shorter time to get a profession. He talked at one time about being a coach. He had played basketball and football and baseball. He thought maybe he'd like to do that. See, my grandmother was never very well. What energy she had she spent helping other people. She was a good mother, I don't want to imply that she wasn't. She wouldn't have been loved as much as she was by the children if she hadn't been a good mother. But I know that Aunt Belle and Aunt Fern and Uncle Ray and father, from father's letters, thought a great deal of her. I really don't know. Grandfather was great for education, so Aunt Fern...

WJ: He was a schoolteacher himself and did law, too. He did all kinds of things, it seems like.

Isobell: Well, actually he'd started in law school when he came out here, my grandfather. Finn Britt was teaching out here, but Finn's background was a bit limited. So, he could do figures and he could read a little bit, but not very much, so Grandfather taught school. But he had no training as a schoolteacher. I don't know that they needed it. Anybody that could read and write, I guess, could teach school. My grandfather was the first stake president in this area.

WJ: Your grandfather?

Isobell: Grandfather Davis, Nathan Davis.

WJ: Okay, that side.

Isobell: My great-grandfather.

WJ: He was a patriarch, too. The first patriarch.

Isobell: So, Father, according to my grandmother, certainly had a contact with that. I don't know whether he lived there while he taught school or not. I don't believe he did. I don't know where he lived. But his parents were furious at him for staying out in this, they called it god-forsaken Mormon country, and wanted him to come back. But he had his eye on my grandmother and he wouldn't go, so then he stayed.

WJ: I got the impression that he just kind of left home for a while.

Isobell: Oh, he wanted an adventure. He wanted a western adventure.

WJ: Yes, he was looking for action and he wasn't finding it in Iowa. He wasn't finding it there and he ended up in the Uinta Basin, and from the sounds of it, he found plenty of adventure.

Isobell: Yes, he did.

WJ: So, your father just recognized a need and decided to go into it? It's probably logical.

[Short interruption by Isobelle's husband.]

Isobell: I've never heard anybody say why he wanted to, but I know Mother did, because it was the only way she could support the family. That's all I know. See, I told you I wouldn't be able to help you very much.

WJ: No, this has been very interesting.

Isobell: Father had a case, it's over in the museum now, that he put his embalming fluid in and all of his stuff and went from home to home with it. I can remember my father taking that case and going out and getting in the buggy and going to take care of people. Now, he worked at the Co-op, I think, as a clerk, to help support the family, because there wasn't enough mortuary business, and he also worked at the theater, because I remember when we were little kids, we got to go once in a while.

WJ: Now, that would have been the Vogue?

Isobell: The Vogue Theater. We'd get to go, not often, but once in a while, and it was a big day. I think they only had theaters about once a week, no more.

WJ: A picture show or something.

Isobell: Yes. And he worked there and he worked at the Co-op store.

WJ: He had those two jobs and then as far as you know, they had this one place on First South. Did they have an undertaking parlor before then? Someplace, do you know?

Isobell: Well, they may have had it, they *probably* had it, on First South, then they turned around... No, on Vernal Avenue, then they took it to First South. That's as far as I know. And Opal may know a lot more about this than I.

WJ: When do you think she'll be in?

Isobell: I don't know.

WJ: She lives in Salt Lake now?

Isobell: Yes.

WJ: Maybe I'll have to go out and visit her sometime.

Isobell: She lives in Sandy.

WJ: I remember meeting her at your brother's funeral.

Isobell: Opal really is one fine lady, but she grew up in a family that hated Mormons and that was transferred. Her sister worked for (?) and he sent her on a mission and she joined the church and that made the family very, very unhappy. Later on she married him. I don't think she stayed with the church.

WJ: Another question that's not related to funerals, but Mildred [Dillman], in her book, she did a lot of DUP work, a lot of history. She talks about a Fort Reed, before a Fort Robidoux, have you ever hear of that?

Isobell: No. It must have been on that side.

WJ: Yeah, around Whiterocks. She makes an accusation, or a statement, that before this Fort Robidoux, Antione Robidoux was a trader, before him was a Jim Reed. Well, everybody in all the history books recognizes Fort Robidoux as being the first and sometimes they'll mention Jim Reed and sometimes they don't.

Isobell: Sometimes Aunt Mildred gets a little confused with what she writes, too. She does. We did some genealogy that she had done and it was a little mixed up.

WJ: Okay. I read that and I thought, that's interesting. There are some people that mention it and then are some that just let it go, they don't mention it at all about this Jim Reed. But she emphatically says that he was the first one, in her book, her DUP history of Duchesne County.

Isobell: She did a lot of research on that, but things that Aunt Mildred didn't want to accept, didn't happen.

WJ: This interview was with Isobelle Dillman Batty on September 23, 1986 concerning her father, Elmer Dillman, and her mother, Bessie Dillman. William Jolley was the interviewer.